



# CHILD MALTREATMENT

## The Problem

Child maltreatment is the abuse and neglect of a child under the age of 18 by a parent, caregiver or another person in a custodial role. It can be physical, sexual or emotional. Abused children suffer physical and mental injuries that can cause lifelong health and mental issues. They may be depressed, abuse drugs and act out sexually.

## The Numbers

- In the United States, more than 1,740 children died from abuse and neglect in 2008 alone.
- In Arkansas, 32 children died in 2009-2010 from abuse or neglect.
- 6,886 Arkansas families were involved in some kind of child maltreatment from July 2008 to June 2009.

## Risk Factors

- **Age:** Children under the age of 4 are at the greatest risk for injury and death from abuse.
- **Family Environment:** Lack of support, drug or alcohol abuse, poverty and history of violence can all contribute to abuse and neglect.
- **Community:** Environments that have on-going violence may encourage abuse.



## Report Abuse

To report suspected child abuse or neglect, call the **Arkansas Child Abuse Hotline at (800) 482-5964**.

## For More Information

- [www.childwelfare.gov](http://www.childwelfare.gov)
- [www.preventchildabuse.org](http://www.preventchildabuse.org)



In Cooperation With:

### Statewide Injury Prevention Program

(501) 364-3400 or (866) 611-3445 • [www.archildrens.org/injury\\_prevention](http://www.archildrens.org/injury_prevention)

Sources: Arkansas Division of Children and Family Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention